

STARLING CENTER
425 CHAPEL HILL
MARSHALL

Mars Hill Approves Budget — Story On Page 2

Community Calendar

Hot Springs July 4 Celebration

The Hot Springs Lions Club will sponsor their annual Independence Day celebration this year on Friday, July 4. Activities will begin at noon at the Community Center (old Town Hall) with games and refreshments. There will also be a fish fry from 5 until 7 p.m. The celebration will conclude with a fireworks display shortly after dark. Everyone is invited to attend.

Ebb's Chapel VFD Plans Celebration

The Ebb's Chapel Volunteer Fire Dept. will sponsor a fund-raising project at the Upper Laurel Community Center on July 5 beginning at 11 a.m. Baked goods, toys and crafts will be offered for sale. There will also be games and drawings for prizes. A free blood pressure screening will be conducted by members of the American Red Cross.

There will also be a gospel singing beginning at 4 p.m. A turkey and ham dinner will be served at 4:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m.. Donations will be appreciated.

King Family Reunion Set

The family of the late W. E. King and Martha Stanton King will hold a reunion on June 29 at 1 p.m. in the Rocky Bluff Campground near Hot Springs. All family members and friends are invited to attend and bring a picnic lunch.

Laurel VFD Bingo Set

There will be a bingo game at the Laurel Fire Department on June 28 beginning at 7:30 p.m. Proceeds will benefit the Madison County Softball League All-Star team who will represent Madison County in the Charlotte playoffs. Everyone is invited to attend.

Softball Tourney Now Underway

The Madison County Softball League tournament for girls ages 9-12 and 13-15 began on June 24 and will continue through Saturday, June 28 on the Island in Marshall. Everyone is invited to attend.

Democrats Hold State Convention

The State Democratic Convention will be held at 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, July 12, at the Civic Center in Raleigh. Delegates are reminded to attend.

Davis Family Reunion July 6

The descendants of Fletcher and Julia Rector Davis and Fletcher and Mattie Roberts Davis will hold a family reunion on July 6 at Davis Grocery, Redmond Road, Marshall. The covered dish dinner/reunion will begin at 10 a.m. For more information, call 649-2490. All family members are invited to attend.

Rios Trial To Be Heard In Henderson County

By ROBERT KOENIG

The first degree murder trial of Jimmy Dean Rios of Arkansas will be heard in the Henderson County Superior Court later this summer. Superior Court Judge Mary Pope of Southern Pines ordered the trial moved to Henderson County after a seven-hour hearing Thursday in Marshall.

Attorneys representing Rios had requested the change of venue, citing pre-trial publicity they maintained harmed Rios' chances of obtaining a fair trial in Madison County. Television and newspaper reporters were subpoenaed to testify at the venue hearing.

The court reviewed tapes of television reports of the three-day manhunt which followed the murder of State Trooper Bobby L. Coggins in September of last year. Officials of Asheville and Greenville, S.C. television stations presented the tape recordings as part of their testimony. During the afternoon session, defense attorney Forrest Ball of Mars Hill also introduced clippings from The News Record and Asheville Citizen into evidence.

State Bureau of Investigation agents David Jones and Steve Reid also testified concerning the hours immediately following Rios' capture.

Ball also called several Madison Countyans to testify during the hearing, including Leonard Shuford of Mars Hill, James Robertson of Beech Glen, Carl Parks of Upper Shut-In and Jean Flowers of Mars Hill. All four testified that they had formed an

opinion regarding the case as a result of publicity on television and in the local newspapers.

Parks told the court, "I don't think there is anyone in Madison County who isn't aware of the case." Flowers said, "The people have been scarred. They are emotional about this. There has to be time for the wounds to heal."

Several other local residents disagreed, saying they thought Rios could get a fair trial in Madison County. School superintendent Robert L. Edwards, George Abbott and News Record editor Bob Koenig also testified that Rios could get a fair trial in Madison County. Edwards told the court, "We have a bunch of people that have a great deal of pride. They will listen before they make up their minds."

District Attorney Tom Rusher, arguing against a change in venue, told the court, "We are first of all a proud and independent people. We believe in right and wrong, but are unwilling to convict people based upon newspaper accounts."

Rusher argued that the case has received nationwide publicity and that it would be difficult to locate the trial anywhere in the state where details of the case had not been publicized.

In his closing argument, Ball said "It would be virtually impossible to find an impartial jury here." He said that publicity of the trial of William Bray had also created unfavorable publicity for his client. Ball also con-



JIMMY DEAN RIOS, center, walks to the Madison County Court House for a hearing last week. Judge Mary Pope granted Rios a change of venue and ordered his trial for murder moved to Henderson County.

demned newspaper coverage of the case, saying it was excessive, sensational and inaccurate. Finally, Ball pointed to the conditions of the county courthouse, maintaining that facilities were inadequate for a capital trial.

In handing down her decision, Judge Pope said that publicity surrounding the murder, manhunt and subsequent trial were "neither factually inaccurate or inflammatory", but agreed that publicity of the Bray murder trial had sparked a reaction in the community. In allowing the requested change of venue, Judge Pope said, "It appears there exists in Madison County a prejudice against the defendant. It would be difficult to obtain an impartial jury." The judge also agreed that the Madison County Court House is inadequate for a capital murder trial. She said the lack of air conditioning and continual interruptions caused by

-Continued on Page 10

Marshall Approves Budget

Marshall aldermen approved a \$300,000 operating budget for the upcoming fiscal year at a special called meeting Friday afternoon. The aldermen also gave approval to an agreement to operate the town's recreation center and made amendments to the current budget.

Vice mayor John Dodson presided over the special meeting. Mayor Anita Ward was out of town.

The budget approved during Friday's session calls for no increase in the town's property tax rate of 85 cents per \$100 assessed valuation. Town employees will not receive a raise during the coming fiscal year.

Town clerk Linda Dodson reported on details of the budget, telling aldermen that tax collections in the past year have exceeded their original projections, due largely to revenues received from the French Broad EMC's Capitola Dam. The town currently has a 97 percent tax

TOWN OF MARSHALL GENERAL FUND 1986-87 BUDGET	
Ad Valorem Taxes	\$228,446
Other Taxes	40,000
Powell Bill	17,850
License and permit	1,800
Investments	4,000
Sales and services	4,000
Miscellaneous	3,904
TOTAL	\$300,000

collection rate.

Mrs. Dodson also said that the current budget does not contain any provision for federal revenue sharing funds. Marshall received \$15,000 in revenue sharing money during the current fiscal year.

The 1986-87 budget cuts \$20,000 from administration expenses and \$1,700 from the town's volunteer fire department over the current year's budget. The police department's budget was increased by \$4,000 over 1985-86 figures and recreation receive-

an increase of \$300. The town also hopes that the Water and Sewer Dept. will become more nearly self-sufficient during the coming fiscal year.

The new budget calls for General Fund revenues of only \$9,140 to be used for water and sewer in 1986-87. The department needed General Fund contributions totalling \$20,000 in the current fiscal year.

Before approving the upcoming budget, the aldermen met with representatives of the recreation committee to iron out details of an agreement between the committee and town concerning operation of the recreation center. Officials planned to be filling the pool on Monday. No opening date for the pool's operation has been set, but hopes are to have the pool in operation in time for the July 4 weekend.

When it does open, the pool will

-Continued on Page 10

Child Sexual Abuse

By WILLIAM LEE

It is a subject most people would rather not talk about. Even the experts—social workers, therapists, and physicians—talk in very guarded terms, their viewpoints and statistical research become contradictory and questionable.

The subject is child sexual abuse.

When it involves a babysitter, or a boy scout or girl scout leader, or a teacher, it makes the headlines and parents become enraged.

When it involves a member of the family, worse of all a parent—nobody wants to talk about it.

That is why experts believe that for every case of child abuse reported, at least two go unreported. Statistics from the National Study on Child Neglect and Abuse Reporting indicated that in 51 percent of the recorded cases of child sexual abuse or molestation the perpetrator was a parent or guardian, with other family relatives involved in 20 percent of the cases. Acquaintances to the child accounted for 17 to 19 percent, with strangers involved in only ten to 12 percent.

"We often forget just how reliant the child is on the adult, the parent, for moral support," says Marian Plaut of the Blue Ridge Mental Health Center. "Irregardless of what they are taught about strangers, they place a great deal of trust in the other adults in their lives."

"Children see adults as superhuman, and have a great sense of believability in what we tell them. Because of that they can be easily threatened."

In its programs taught to younger children, and currently being presented at day care centers in Madison County, the Rape Crisis Center stresses the importance of the child having someone they can go to and trust.

"We try to get all the kids to name two people they can go to with a problem. One inside the family and one outside," says Leigh Dudask of the Rape Crisis Center of Madison County. "But it is also important that if they are not at first believed, they continue to seek out someone who will listen."

"The child needs a great deal of support, if we are going to prosecute," says assistant District Attorney James Baker. "For them a courtroom can be most intimidating. At that moment the fear of the courtroom experience is more dreadful than describing the abuse."

"In the case of incest the mother, or father if that is the case, is sometimes placed under a great deal of pressure by the rest of the family, or by the abuse, to not go to court. They are torn between protecting their child and saving their family reputation if they proceed."

There will never be a cure for child sexual abuse. The only way to prevent it is to educate the child and to ensure that the child knows that there are people who will listen and that there are people who will help. The only way to prevent it is to educate the child and to ensure that the child knows that there are people who will listen and that there are people who will help.

Most Cases Involve Family Members; Two Of Three Cases Are Not Reported

THE SCARS THAT LAST A LIFETIME

Joanna (not her real name) seemed a young lady who had it all together, sailing through life as one of the most popular girls in school. From high school and through college, achieving her master's degree in the process, Joanna had always been a straight A student.

Up until then she had been, as she put it, superwoman. And then the bottom dropped out.

Suddenly she could not eat, could not sleep, her anxiety growing to the point she became reclusive. It all came back to the fact that she had been sexually abused by her father when she was six years old.

With Joanna, as with many victims of sexual abuse, it was a matter of coming to terms with her pent-up anger and hurt, and the event itself, and putting the two back together.

"The denial of anger, squelching that feeling over time is one of the leading causes of depression," says Marian Plaut. "Because of the denial of their anger, with no outlet, more women suffer from depression than men. And that includes any anger, not just in cases of sexual abuse or rape."

"I was always feeling that something was wrong with me, and if I were okay my father would have become a dad again," said one sexual abuse victim.

Like many victims of incestual sexual abuse, it was an important part of her therapy to recognize that she was not at fault.

"All our memories are from a child's point of view," explains Plaut. "The therapy often involves having the adult self view what was going on to the child self, and help console child and rescue them both from the situation."

In Joanna's case there was also a blame of guilt she had placed on her older sister she had gone to for help. By viewing the incident from an adult perspective, she realized that her older sister was only nine and couldn't have been any help. It ended with a reconciliation between the two siblings.

"If you can help them to forgive the people who harmed them, they can get through the anxieties and other problems related to the past abuse," said Plaut.

"Perhaps forgive is too strong a word," adds Gary Sellazzo, Director of the Madison County Blue Ridge Mental Health Center. "It's a matter of seeing the abuse from the perspective of the abuser and let go of some of the hate and anger."

"It helps if they can see the human side of the person's action. That even if distorted sexual behavior, there are not intentions."

"We're all held in because of the strange fear in the car," said one abuse victim. "I had to have that alcohol because I was scared. The last thing we're ever told as children is that the man is not to be a member of the family."



Children must be taught what is acceptable physical contact — and what is not.

IDENTIFYING THE SEXUALLY ABUSED CHILD

It is important at this time to define sexual child abuse. While the case given above represents one of the more extreme forms of sexual abuse—incest—sexual abuse is not limited to actual sexual intercourse or other forms of physical contact such as fondling or touching a child's body.

Non-physical sexual abuse includes verbal abuse, such as the use of obscene language or threats, or the use of obscene language or threats.

These children, who are often the most vulnerable, may also be the most